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# News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**School experiment relaunched:** Nearly two years after their experiments were destroyed in the Columbia shuttle explosion, U.S. high school students are getting a second chance to see how space affects everyday things such as hair, flowering seeds and plant food.

This time, the work of the students at 11 high schools across the United States will be on board an unmanned Russian supply rocket headed for the International Space Station. Its launch was scheduled for Thursday.

**Chicago high-rise fire:** Investigators have determined that the downtown high-rise fire that raged for 5½ hours earlier this month was caused by an electrical malfunction.

At least 37 people, including nearly two dozen firefighters, were injured in the Dec. 6 fire on the upper floors of the LaSalle Bank headquarters. The stubborn blaze required more than 300 firefighters to bring it under control.

The fire started in the space above a ceiling on the building's 29th floor, but officials do not know the exact point where it began or what sparked it, said Lt. Anthony Martin of the Chicago Fire Department.

**Bus evacuation:** Local and state officials involved in a test evacuation of schools last week plan to meet privately to figure out what went wrong, leaving nearly 1,000 students without bus transportation.

A clear picture of the glitches that undercut the Dec. 16 evacuation — and what changes can be made to the area's evacuation plan — will be the focus of Wednesday's meeting, several emergency officials said Monday.

The private meeting will include representatives from the local school district, the town of Brattleboro, Vermont Emergency Management and the Laidlaw bus company of New Hampshire.

## World

**Bobby Fischer:** Iceland has rejected a U.S. request for a grant of a residency permit for former American chess champion Bobby Fischer, officials said Tuesday.

U.S. Ambassador James Gadsden had asked the country last week to withdraw its offer because Fischer is wanted in the United States on criminal charges on charges of violating international sanctions against Yu-



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

**"Cookie Crunch"** is here: Staff Sgt. Kelly Brochu, left, of the 374th Comptroller Squadron and Cori Dawkins bag cookies for the fifth annual "Cookie Crunch" at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Sponsored by the Yokota Enlisted Spouses Club, the event spreads holiday cheer via bags of cookies to the unaccompanied servicemembers at the base. Organizers said they anticipated about 11,000 donated cookies from base residents.

goslavia for playing chess there in 1992.

But on Monday, Foreign Secretary David Oddson invited Gadsden to a meeting and told the U.S. ambassador that the Icelandic government stood by its offer, Icelandic officials said.

Gadsden was told that Iceland wanted to recognize its historic connection with Fischer, who has been held in great esteem here since winning the chess World Championship in Reykjavik in 1972.

**U.S. protests in Cuba:** Thousands of Cuban university students rallied outside the U.S. Interests Section in the capital to protest the mission's Christmas display supporting local dissidents.

The students listened to speeches and waved signs with socialist slogans and images of revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara at Anti-imperialist Plaza near the mission.

Government media on Tuesday estimated the crowd at 5,000.

International media based in Cuba were

not invited to Monday's night's event.

**Bird flu in Japan:** Japan reported its first case of bird flu in a human on Wednesday — a man who got the disease from birds.

Bird flu has swept through farms across Asia this year, forcing officials to cull more than 100 million birds. The disease has also jumped to humans, killing 12 people in Thailand and 20 in Vietnam.

Although there has been no evidence of human-to-human transmission, experts worry that the virus could mutate into a version easily spread among people, setting off a global pandemic.

The man caught the bird flu virus while disinfecting a contaminated poultry farm in western Kyoto during an outbreak in Japan earlier this year, the Health Ministry said.

It was the first confirmed case of human infection from the disease in Japan, the ministry said in a statement, adding that the man showed no symptoms other than a headache that lasted several days.

Stories from The Associated Press

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TRAVIS M. BURNS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

In the USS Essex's Intensive Care Unit, Lt. Cmdr. David A. Serafini, the Essex's senior medical officer, examines an Iraqi patient.

## Essex treats Iraqi in N. Arabian Gulf

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

The USS Essex medical staff has treated an Iraqi man with serious head injuries who was rescued by a British ship on Monday.

The HMS Marlborough rescued the injured crewmember from the Iraqi-flagged dhow while conducting routine operations in the North Arabian Gulf near the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal, stated a news report from the Essex.

The USS Typhoon received a distress call from the dhow at approximately 7:35 p.m. and radioed Marlborough. The Marlborough dispatched a medical officer and small-boat boarding team, the report added.

One of the dhow's 10 crewmembers, struck on the head by a winch handle while hauling in fishing nets, was knocked overboard, the report stated. The injured

crewmember was unconscious when recovered and was helicoptered from the Marlborough to the Essex for further treatment.

"The rescued Iraqi remains in critical condition," the report stated, and was to be transferred to a medical facility ashore.

The Essex is an amphibious assault ship. However, with 15 intensive-care unit beds and 36 additional beds in its hospital ward, the massive ship's secondary mission is to provide high-level hospital care.

The Essex Expeditionary Strike Group is part of Task Force 50, currently operating in the Arabian Gulf with other coalition forces in support of operations in Iraq.

The strike group, composed of the Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Juneau, operates from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: [tylberg@sp5tripes.osd.mil](mailto:tylberg@sp5tripes.osd.mil)

## 'Ride Now, Pay Later' starts

Sasebo sailors get home safely; CPOA mediates fare

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Servicemembers and others who lack both cash and a car, or who have no business driving one, can turn to the Sasebo Chief Petty Officers' Association's "Ride Now, Pay Later" program starting Friday evening.

The CPOA and the local Japanese Taxi Association signed a contract Tuesday to guarantee taxi fares for such people, said Senior Chief Petty Officer Oscar Mercado, CPOA president.

"If a sailor, or any SOFA-sponsored person, is out in town and out of money and needs to catch a ride to housing, main base or Hario," he said, "the taxi drivers will have a guarantee that somebody will pay for the cab through the Sasebo CPOA."

Here's how it will work: The passenger will be asked to fill out a small form with personal and command information, which the driver will take to the Security Department. The next day, the CPOA will contact the individual's command or sponsor to re-coup the taxi fare. The drivers are to note the ID card number of the person who could not pay and fax the ticket to base security; fares owed will be paid to each company at the end of every month.

"All the city taxi companies are involved," Mercado said. "However, if you use one of the taxis without a base sticker, they can only drop you as far as the gates."

Sasebo's King Taxi Company's fleet can drive on the base, and a few taxis from other companies have

base-access stickers, a Sasebo Staff Office official said Wednesday.

Mercado said the CPOA wanted the taxi agreement to ensure SOFA-sponsored personnel can get home safely, especially if inebriated.

"We don't want drunken sailors driving around out in town and getting in trouble, or getting hurt on the way back because they didn't have any money and decided to walk," Mercado said.

"You can't take the alcohol away from the sailors; when they go outside the gate, that's the first thing on their minds. I'm going to go out and get some drinks ... two drinks." Then after two drinks, they get more, and more. Then they realize they don't have any money left," he said.

"I think this is a good idea," said Toshifumi Imazato of Sasebo Hattaka Kyodo Corp., which is making the forms to be given to taxi drivers. "I heard from taxi drivers that there had been trouble" when sailors were drunk and lacked the taxi fare or their ID card, he said, adding he hopes this will decrease the number of troublesome incidents.

Imazato said Wednesday that the tickets will be distributed to the drivers "around Friday evening." Mercado said, "I think we will probably lose some money doing this but the CPOA decided this is something we want to do for the community. Losing a little money is OK."

Call Mercado at DSN 252-3381 for more information about Ride Now, Pay Later.

Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: [tylberg@sp5tripes.osd.mil](mailto:tylberg@sp5tripes.osd.mil)

## The Temptations at Club Trilogy



JOHN WOODS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Members of the singing group The Temptations perform at Club Trilogy at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, on Tuesday. The group, whose hits include "My Girl" and "The Way You Do The Things You Do," performed at a concert sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

## USS Houston scheduled to arrive at new home on Guam

Stars and Stripes

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Houston is scheduled to arrive in its new permanent base of Apra Harbor, Guam, today.

The Houston will be joining USS City of Corpus Christi and USS San Francisco as the third submarine in the class to attach to Submarine Squadron 15 before the end of this year.

The Houston, formerly based out of Bremerton, Wash., has been under way for almost two weeks, according to a U.S. Naval Forces Marianas news release. A ceremony at Polaris Point is to follow immediately its arrival on Guam.

The Los Angeles class of submarines is designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships. Other missions range from intelligence gathering and Special Forces delivery to anti-ship and strike

warfare. About 150 sailors and officers crew each submarine.

Navy Lt. Arwen Consaul, Guam Naval Base spokeswoman, told Stars and Stripes in October that moving submarines to Guam is a great timesaver for the Navy.

"Strategically, Guam's Central Pacific location offers significant savings in both time and distance to submarines," she said. "Pacific Fleet submarine assets can be on station much quicker once stationed on Guam."

The release stated that with increasing operational tasks and a decreasing number of fleet assets, the Guam-based submarines let the Navy almost double the number of mission days on station by reducing the distance traveled from their permanent base to their area of operation.

The original Submarine Squadron 15 was formed in Pearl Harbor in 1963. The squadron was moved to Guam in 1964, dissolved in 1981 and re-established on Sept. 23, 2001.

# Myers: Suicide bomber likely culprit in Mosul

## 13 servicemembers killed in blast; general defends leadership at base

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,319 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 19 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,181 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 912 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 9,981 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ An attack on a mess hall near Mosul on Tuesday killed 15 U.S. servicemembers.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No new identifications reported.

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Tuesday's explosion in the dining hall at a base in Mosul was caused by a suicide bomber, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers said Wednesday.

"At this point, it looks like an improvised explosive device worn by an attacker," Myers told Pentagon reporters.

The explosion, which occurred at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, killed 22 people, including 13 U.S. servicemembers, five civilian U.S. contractors, three Iraqi security force personnel, and "one non-U.S. person," Myers said.

An additional 69 people were injured in the attack, "including 44 U.S. military, 7 U.S. contractors, 5 Department of Defense civilians, 2 Iraqi civilians, 10 contractors, four other nationalities, and one of unknown nationality and occupation," Myers said.

Asked whether the unidentified person who was killed might be the suicide bomber, Myers said that "is to be determined."

A Pentagon command statement issued later Wednesday said, "Evidence found at the site includes components normally associated with improvised explosive devices. There was no physical evidence of a rocket, mortar, or other type of indirect fire weapon."

"As a result of these findings," the statement said, Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general of the multinational corps in Iraq, "has ordered a full investigation to determine the complete facts and circumstances surrounding the attack."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, also at Wednesday's briefing, offered condolences to the families and friends of the dead and wounded, saying that "their grief is something I feel to my core."

About 50 people — most of them injured soldiers from Mosul — arrived on an Air Force C-141 transport plane at Ramstein Air Base in Germany for treatment at nearby Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, said Maj. Mike Young, a base spokesman.

The hospital said at least eight were in critical condition, Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. With a light snow falling, some wounded were carried out on stretchers, while about a dozen were expected to be well enough to walk off the plane.

An Associated Press reporter saw almost no cars or people on the streets of Mosul on Wednesday and most schools in the city were closed, although a formal curfew was not declared.

Even traffic policemen were not at major intersections as usual.

Asked whether it was wise for so many servicemembers to be bent together in a "soft" fa-

cility at the same time, Myers brushed.

"There are lots of congregations like that, various formations, where an individual bent on suicide" can succeed, Myers said. "It's not a viable strategy to ask everyone to separate. ... These are the calls that the combat commanders make," Myers said.

"Any judgment that [Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, commander of Task Force Olympia in Mosul] isn't worried about force protection is ludicrous," Myers said. "He has had [his troops] well."

"We have had a suicide bomber, apparently, strap something to his apparently a 'him' strap something to his body, apparently, and go into a dining hall," Myers said.

"We know how difficult this is to prevent people bent on suicide."

"This is the insurgents who did this," Myers said. "It was not

Gen. Ham who attacked his dining hall."

The war in Iraq is not a conventional war "with very neat front lines," Myers said.

"We have no front lines," Myers said. "The front line can be a dining hall, it can be the road outside the base, it can be the police station or the governor's office."

Force protection "is an enormous challenge," Rumsfeld added, especially from suicide attackers, who "can attack at any place or any time."

Commanders trying to protect troops from insurgents "have to be right 100 percent of the time," Rumsfeld said.

"The attacker only has to be right once."

As for future attacks, "the way we prevent this [from happening again] is we win," Myers said. "And that's what we're going to do."

The Associated Press contributed to this report. E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgess@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgess@stripes.osd.mil)



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## Citing poor security, company pulls out of contract in Iraq

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An international construction company has pulled out of its contract to rebuild Iraq's transportation systems, deciding it was too dangerous to stay, a spokesman for the U.S.-led reconstruction effort said Wednesday.

Contract International Inc. withdrew from its contract last month after a surge in attacks on reconstruction efforts, said Lt. Col. Eric Schnaible of the Pentagon's Project and Contract Office in Baghdad.

"It's hard to do construction in a place where people are shooting at you or intimidating your work force," Schnaible said in a telephone interview. "It's a challenge across the country."

The PCO has taken over management of about 18 subcontractors working on transportation

projects, Schnaible said. He said Contract's pullout was "a mutually agreed-to separation" and does not signal a larger movement by U.S.-based companies to abandon Iraq.

"Some parts of the country are a whole lot more promising than others," Schnaible said. "Where we can get the work done, good things are happening."

Contract President Karim Camel-Toueg did not immediately return telephone messages left at the company's Arlington, Va., offices Wednesday.

Security concerns have been a major reason for the slow pace of reconstruction, which has frustrated Iraqi and U.S. officials alike.

Of the \$18.4 billion in Iraqi reconstruction money approved by Congress more than a year ago, less than \$2 billion has been spent, PCO head Charles Hess said last month.

## ACLU: Officers didn't take Iraq abuse claims serious

By Ted Bridis

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of pages of Army records released by the American Civil Liberties Union describe alleged mistreatment of Iraqi citizens by U.S. soldiers that the ACLU charges were not taken seriously by superiors.

The records described one investigation into whether an Army staff sergeant attempted to give a captured Iraqi an old handgun to justify shooting him.

A U.S. soldier said the sergeant, whose name was marked out in the documents, told his troops, "If he grabs this gun, shoot him."

The Iraqi, a museum guard initially suspected of firing an AK-47 at troops, refused to take the gun, investigators said. "I thought he was going to shoot him," another U.S. soldier told Army investigators later.

The sergeant denied it. "I can understand they may have misinterpreted what I said to the detainee," he told investigators, "but if they said I was trying to give the detainee the weapon or said to shoot him, then they are lying."

Another soldier described the sergeant who was investigated as a good soldier. "If someone was shooting at one of my soldiers, I would be upset also," this soldier said. He added that, "This is getting carried away. We don't know what our role is in Iraq."

The ACLU, given the documents under the Freedom of Information Act, said the government reports illustrated troubling patterns of alleged abuses that weren't taken seriously. "These kinds of crimes should not simply be brushed under the rug," said ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero.

The latest disclosures also alleged mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners followed reports earlier this week

that military interrogators at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, some posing as FBI agents, humiliated and abused detainees, including inserting lit cigarettes in their ears.

President Bush expects full investigations into all reports of prisoner abuse, a spokesman said Tuesday.

"The president expects that if there are allegations of abuse, that those allegations need to be taken seriously," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "People need to be held accountable and brought to justice if they're involved in wrongdoing, and that preventive measures and corrective measures are put in place to prevent it from happening again."

Army spokesman Col. Joseph Curtin said the documents released by the ACLU are "indicative that the Army takes seriously any allegation of detainee abuse. Any allegation will be investigated."

The reports said one U.S. soldier, whose name was marked out on documents, fatally shot an Iraqi prisoner in September 2003 in Tikrit. The soldier was reduced to the lowest rank possible and discharged from the Army in the shooting.

Army criminal investigators determined there was probable cause to charge the soldier with murder and send him to court-martial.

But he was charged and punished administratively for voluntary manslaughter, the documents showed.

The soldier said the victim, Obeed Hethere Radad, was trying to escape. But the investigation found the soldier did not attempt to warn Radad in any fashion, which is mandatory under U.S. military policy.

It was unclear if the military had ever acknowledged this prisoner death before. Officials had made vague references to a September 2003 incident in which a soldier was discharged for using excessive force in killing an Iraqi prisoner, but alleged that prisoner threw rocks at the soldier first.

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## Aid offered to provide Marine's e-mail

WIXOM, Mich. — Offers of help have been pouring in for a Michigan man who is trying to persuade online giant Yahoo! to allow him access to the e-mail account of his son, a Marine killed in Iraq.

From lawyers to computer-code crackers, people across the nation have come forward wanting to help the family of 20-year-old Justin M. Ellsworth, who was killed last month during a foot patrol in Iraq.

"Oh, my God. It's been incredible," said John Ellsworth, Justin's father. "It's an overwhelming response. ... Things are really moving. I'm very encouraged by it all, but I still have my reservations."

Yahoo! is standing by its policy of protecting the privacy of its e-mail subscribers, spokeswoman Karen Mahon said.

One man started an online petition Tuesday to pressure Yahoo! to allow access to the account. Lawyers have offered free legal services and other people have offered money to help the family pay costs they might incur. Two computer forensic examiners have offered to crack the mystery of the e-mail password for free.

The policy of Yahoo! is to erase the entire account after it has been idle for 90 days. It's not known when Ellsworth last used the account. He died Nov. 3, meaning the account would be erased by Feb. 1.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE WORLD

# Tanzanian acquitted in '98 embassy bombing

**BY SUKHDEV CHHATBAR**  
*The Associated Press*

**DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania** — A High Court judge on Wednesday found a Tanzanian businessman innocent of conspiracy to commit murder in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in the East African nation.

Judge Emilian Mushi ordered the immediate release of Rashid Saleh Hemed, 34, who was charged in connection with the

terror attack that killed 12 people and was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. A nearly simultaneous blast at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, the capital of neighboring Kenya, killed 219 people, including 12 Americans.

"You cannot convict someone with doubtful evidence," Mushi told the court, after declaring that prosecutors failed to prove beyond doubt that Hemed was involved in the plot to bomb the

embassy.

Prosecutors said that they would not appeal the ruling.

"I am not surprised with the judgment because I knew I was not guilty right from the beginning," Hemed said while walking out of the court.

Hemed, a car parts dealer, was the first person charged in connection with the Aug. 7, 1998, attacks in Tanzania and Kenya. His trial began in 2000.

In 2001, four men were con-

victed in New York of conspiracy to carry out the bombings and sentenced to life in prison. In Kenya, three men are on trial for allegedly taking part in a series of al-Qaida attacks, including the U.S. Embassy bombing.

Hemed initially was charged with 11 counts of murder in September 1998, but the charges were later reduced to conspiracy to commit murder. One person died from injuries after the charges were brought. Hemed

pleaded innocent to the charges.

In February, three court assessors declared Hemed innocent, but under Tanzanian law, the presiding judge makes the final ruling.

The prosecution called 18 witnesses during the trial, including three FBI agents who testified last month that on Hemed's clothes they found traces of bomb-making chemicals similar to those used in the embassy bombing.

# EU orders Microsoft to divulge Windows secrets

BY RAF CASERT  
*The Associated Press*

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union struck at the commercial backbone of Microsoft's global software empire on Wednesday — forcing the company for the first time to strip its Windows platform of a popular feature to give competitors a better shot at success.

An EU court ruled that Microsoft Corp. must immediately divulge some trade secrets to competitors and produce a version of its flagship Windows operating system without the program that plays music and video.

The 91-page ruling thwarts Microsoft's attempt to delay, pending appeal, implementation of the EU's landmark antitrust decision in March that demanded changes in the software giant's business practices.

The company said it would start shipping Windows without its digital Media Player within weeks so it will be on sale as an alternative to the full Windows program by February.

Microsoft lamented the fact it was forced to release "a degraded version" of Windows. "It will be harmful to consumers and competition and undermines the technology integration that has been the backbone

of the information technology revolution over the past three decades," the company said.

The implications for Microsoft are sizable since software that plays media files is increasingly in demand as more consumers get broadband connections to the Internet and use their PCs as entertainment centers.

There also is the question of precisely what computer code Microsoft will share with competitors so that those companies' programs work better on networks run by Microsoft server software.

The Luxembourg-based European Court of First Instance found that Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft "has not

shown that it might suffer serious and irreparable damage as a result of implementation of the contested decision."

Microsoft said the ruling still held encouraging comments, recognizing that "some of our arguments on the merits of the case are well-founded."

"There is ample room for us to continue to press forward with cause for optimism," said Microsoft counsel Brad Smith.

The company was still considering whether to appeal, but said it hoped the ruling would help reopen settlement talks with the European Commission.

EU officials, however, have said a ruling in their favor would make it unlikely that antitrust regulators would reopen talks.

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# Isn't it nice to come home from a hard day's work and know that the newspaper is just a few feet away?

As we celebrate the holiday season, what better time to stop and take a few moments to thank your newspaper carrier for a job well done. Below is a list of Stars and Stripes' carriers in the Pacific who work so hard to get you your paper on time everyday. We hope you'll remember them with something special next time they drop by.

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Rebecca Flowers  
Stephan Flowers  
Amber Wilder  
Decenne Polaski  
Bobby Long  
Jonnie Summers

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Uen Hoang  
Klara Wilson  
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Kelichi Tadaka  
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Jessie Miller  
Rebecca Lachance  
Calvin Louther  
Nicholas Henderson  
Alex Fulton  
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Cassandra Dahl  
Luis Carrillo IV  
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Jerry Bates  
Michael Benette  
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Ciara Bush  
Trenton Butts  
Alex Coplinger  
Austin Carole  
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Michael Coleman  
Jordan Cook  
Brandon Colto  
Justin Curtis  
Cameron Daugherty  
Andrew Delaney  
Ashley Fisher  
Joshua Galtmore  
Marcus Hutchins  
Heather Isley  
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Ryan Mulcahey  
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Regan Robinson  
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Phillip Wallace  
Katrina Willford  
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Ronald Willis  
John Wisniewski  
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Song, In-Soo  
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# Japanese abductee now comic book heroine



At a news conference in Tokyo on Monday, Sakie and Shigeru Yokota hold comic books featuring the ordeal of their daughter. The cover story — "Megumi," penned by Soichi Moto and based on the true story of their daughter, who was kidnapped by North Korea agents from northern Japan in 1977 when she was only 13 — is not unusual for Japanese comics, which often deal with weighty matters.

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Photos of Megumi Yokota have appeared on television, in newspapers and on the front pages of magazines because of her fame for being one of Japan's citizens kidnapped by North Korea agents in the 1970s and 1980s.

This week, the abduction victim appears in an unusual format: a comic book.

"Manga Action" magazine had "Megumi" as its cover feature in the latest issue, detailing the girl's kidnapping as a 13-year-old in 1977 off of Japan's remote northwest coast.

"Abduction could have happened to any of us," said Katsushi Minoura, chief editor at publisher Futabasha Publishers Ltd. "We're hoping that readers try to imagine what it was like."

Japanese comics do not shy away from tough topics. Aside from action heroes, sexual themes and crime, the elaborately drawn works tackle heavy issues such as finance, scandal and history.

The story of Megumi Yokota, however, is particularly sensitive territory.

Yokota is one of 13 Japanese citizens that North Korea has admitted to kidnapping in the 1970s and '80s to train spies. Five were returned to Japan, but Pyongyang claims the eight others — Yokota among them — died in the communist state.

North Korea, however, has failed to substantiate the deaths, and many Japanese suspect some of them may still be alive. Japan has urged North Korea to investigate the cases, but little progress has been made.

Yokota has long been a symbol for the kidnappings: Her parents have led the campaign to win information on the cases from North Korea, and the photos of her as a full-faced and innocent 13-year-old have been a rallying point for anger and indignation about the crimes.

That indignation peaked earlier this month when DNA tests showed human remains that North Korea claimed were Yokota's actually belong to two unidentified people.

"Megumi" opens on Nov. 15, 1977, when she vanished on her way home from school after a badminton practice.

Narrated by her mother, the story details the girl's last day in Japan, and a hazily drawn half-page panel shows Megumi's turned back as she walked to school.

"I saw her," the mother's voice says as Megumi walks away. "That was the last time."

In the 46-page section's most horrifying scene, taken from an account from a North Korean spy who defected to the South, Megumi is depicted in the hold of the boat of her abductors. She screams for her mother and claws so desperately at the wooden walls of the enclosure that her fingernails tear and bleed.

It's the magazine's second series on the abductions.

Futabasha published another series, "Recapturing," based on a book written by Toru Hasuke, brother of another abductee Kaoru, one of the five victims who returned home in 2002.

## 2 seek refuge in embassy

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Two people claimed to be from North Korea have taken refuge in the Swedish Embassy in Vietnam, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"They entered the embassy late Monday night local time," Foreign Ministry spokesman Jesper Liedholm said, adding he wasn't sure if the pair were seeking political asylum or trying to escape from North Korea via Vietnam.

"The Foreign Ministry and the embassy are trying to find a solution to the issue," he said, without elaborating.

Sweden, which is historically neutral, has diplomatic relations with North Korea, and the country has an embassy in Stockholm.

## Sabbath discs found

LONDON — Stolen gold and silver discs won by Ozzy Osbourne's band Black Sabbath were recovered Wednesday after thieves dumped them behind trash cans.

The discs were reported missing last week after a burglary at the home of Osbourne's former manager, Patrick Meehan, in Edenbridge, Kent, southeast England.

Kent police said an anonymous tip led them to the eight discs, found in a plastic bag dumped behind recycling bins.

## Successful missile test

MOSCOW — Russia successfully test-fired a heavy intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday in a launch intended to extend the lifetime of aging Soviet-built weapons.

It was the first time that an RS-20V Voevoda, which NATO identifies as the SS-18 Satan, had been fired from its combat positions in Russia since the 1991 Soviet collapse. Previously, such missiles had been launched from the Russian-leased Baikonur cos-

modrome in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

The missile, which was launched from a silo in the Orenburg region in the southern Ural Mountains, hit a designated target on a testing ground on the Far East Kamchatka Peninsula, more than 3,750 miles away.

## N. Korea nuclear dispute

BEIJING — A South Korean envoy said Wednesday that military pressure or economic sanctions won't stop North Korea's nuclear ambitions, and that a peaceful resolution of the issue must be reached in 2005 in order to avert a crisis.

"Unfortunately real negotiation to settle the North Korean nuclear issue has not begun yet," said Chung Dong-yung, South Korea's unification minister, who also serves as chairman of the standing committee of its National Security Council.

Chung was in Beijing for meetings with Chinese officials to discuss efforts to start a new round of six-nation talks on U.S. demands that the North give up its nuclear programs.

North Korea said last week it would treat sanctions as a "declaration of war."

From The Associated Press

# Iran detains suspected nuclear spies

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has arrested military officers, nuclear workers and others on charges of revealing its nuclear secrets to Israeli and U.S. intelligence agencies, Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi said.

Yunesi said the information passed to America and Israel was "without value," state media reported.

The minister said more than 10 suspects were detained in Tehran and in the southern Hormozgan

province during the Iranian year that began March 21, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"These people were spying for Mossad and CIA," IRNA quoted Yunesi as saying. He was referring to Israel's external secret service and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The United States accuses Iran of running a secret program to build a nuclear bomb. Iran says its nuclear programs are purely for energy.

The minister said the identity of those detained will not be re-

vealed before they stand trial but said three of them were employees of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, IRNA reported.

"Some of them were military officers and some others were businessmen," state-run television quoted Yunesi as saying.

They are now in the hands of the hard-line Revolutionary Court, which deals with security crimes, he said.

Yunesi said the main mission of the alleged spies was to disrupt Iran's nuclear program, contaminate nuclear activities and forge documents. It was not clear what Yunesi meant by contamination.

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## IN THE STATES

## Snowfall paints Midwest

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A foot or more of snow was possible in parts of Indiana and Ohio as a storm spanning the nation's mid-section arrived in the region Wednesday, and motorists already were sliding off roads.

Snow was falling from New Mexico, where some schools were closed, to the lower Great Lakes.

The snow marked the leading edge of bitterly cold air flowing southward. Highs only in the teens were forecast Wednesday in the northern Texas Panhandle, where wind chills on Thursday could be as low as 15 below zero, the National Weather Service said.

At the northern extreme of the cold air mass, International Falls, Minn., the temperature fell from 8 below zero at midnight to 20 below by midmorning, the weather service said.

Eight inches of snow had fallen by late morning in the hilly terrain of southwestern Indiana, where Evansville recorded only 7 inches all of last winter, and police reported numerous vehicles sliding off slippery roads.



The U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Neah Bay is framed by ice-covered trees along the shore of Lake Erie on Monday. Brisk winds and sub-freezing temperatures are following a snowstorm that could dump up to a foot of snow on parts of northeast Ohio.

"It's strictly the result of people going too fast," said state police 1st Sgt. Michael Bennett in Jasper.

In central Indiana, snow was more than 7 inches deep at Columbus and county government offices were closed because roads were hazardous.

Through Thursday, snowfall totals could reach a foot in parts of southern Indiana, meteorologists said.

But for western Ohio, fore-

casts were upgraded because cold air was moving in faster than expected and rain was turning to snow more quickly.

"Some locations will make a hard run at 20 inches," meteorologist Mike Ryan said in Wilmington.

The precipitation was moving toward the east, and rain and snow were possible Thursday from the Gulf of Mexico into New England.

To the west, up to 6 inches of snow was possible in parts of northern Texas.

## Ruling helps Democrats in Wash. with recount

BY REBECCA COOK

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington state's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that more than 700 belatedly discovered ballots from Seattle's King County should be counted in the extraordinarily close governor's race — potentially enough to tip the balance in favor of Democrat Christine Gregoire.

King County is a Democratic stronghold, the biggest county in the state and the last to report results from the statewide hand recount that began Dec. 8.

The ruling was a boost to the Democrats, who even before the decision were claiming victory, saying their own analysis showed that even without the belated ballots, Gregoire had erased Republican Dino Rossi's slim lead and had won the race by just eight votes out of 2.9 million cast.

King County was to release preliminary recount results Wednesday afternoon and certify results Thursday after counting the belated ballots that are deemed valid.

"There is a sacred American right to have legitimate votes counted," Gregoire said in a news release. "The justices recognized that principle today."

Republicans said they will now seek out Rossi voters whose ballots

were disqualified because of election workers' errors and fight to have those ballots counted as well.

"We'll be taking them to canvassing boards in counties across the state and asking those canvassing boards to review their decisions and to consider these ballots," Rossi spokeswoman Mary Lane said.

At a hearing Wednesday morning before the high court, Republicans had argued that a recount should be a mere retabulation, and that it was too late for counties to go back and correct errors.

But the court unanimously said state law and previous court rulings specifically allow county canvassing boards to correct mistakes during a recount.

Justices questioned Republican claims that counting the votes would cause irreparable harm.

"You're looking at from the point of view of the winner or the loser — shouldn't we be looking at it from the point of view of the voter?" asked Justice Susan Owens.

Gregoire, 57, a three-term attorney general, was the favorite going into the election against Rossi, 45, a former state senator. On Election Day, Rossi squeaked past Gregoire by 261 votes. His lead was whittled to 42 votes in a subsequent machine recount. Democrats then paid for the hand recount.

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# Poll: Most confident about prescription drug safety

BY WILL LESTER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumers remain confident in the safety of prescription drugs sold in this country at a time when some popular ones have been linked to health threats, an Associated Press poll found.

They also expressed confidence in the Food and Drug Administration, the federal agency responsible for ensuring drug safety. But some indicated their confidence is limited.

The FDA has come under intense scrutiny because of health risks linked to the use of Vioxx, which has been withdrawn from the market, Celebrex, and now Aleve, which is sold over the counter.

Just over eight in 10 said they have confidence in the general safety of prescription drugs in this country, the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs found. Almost that many said they have confidence in the FDA. Only about one-third said they were "very confident" about the safety of prescription drugs in the United States and half said they were "somewhat confident."

About one-fourth in the poll said they were "very confident" in the FDA's ability to ensure the safety of prescription drugs, with about half saying they were "somewhat confident."

Retiree Gabrielle Purvis said the barrage of news about possible drug problems is dizzying.

"You get so much instant information," said Purvis, who lives in Lottsburg, Va., near the Chesapeake Bay. "It's crazy. We end up with too much information that hasn't been properly analyzed."

The poll was taken this past weekend after questions were raised last week about Celebrex, and more than two months after Vioxx was pulled from the market. But it was taken before a study raised a possible heart attack-stroke link with naproxen, which is sold over the counter as Aleve.

Among the recent problems: ■ The popular arthritis drug Vioxx was pulled from the market by manufacturer Merck on Sept. 30 because of evidence it increased the risk of heart attack and strokes.

■ Last week, another popular pain reliever, Celebrex, was found to increase the risk of heart

attack when taken in high doses. Its maker, Pfizer, has suspended advertising, but the drug is still on the market.

■ Officials at the National Institutes of Health on Monday halted a study of naproxen, an over-the-counter pain reliever commonly sold under the brand name Aleve, because of possible links to heart attacks and strokes.

These reports — and questions about other prescription drugs in recent years — have led critics of the FDA to claim the agency approves drugs too quickly, doesn't follow up effectively on possible health effects and is too close to drug companies.

In another high-profile case, the FDA was criticized for not acting quickly enough to issue warnings that anti-depressant use by children could increase suicidal thoughts and behavior.

White House chief of staff Andy Card defended the FDA last weekend, saying it does "a spectacular job."

Some people say they've grown suspicious of the drug approval process, however.

"Corporate people are cutting corners for the profit," said Mike Powell, a manufacturing engineer from Houston.

# Medical marijuana user fights California DMV over driver's license test

BY BRIAN MELLEY  
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Officials Tuesday abruptly postponed a driver's license test for a medical marijuana user with a case before the U.S. Supreme Court after her lawyer claimed she was being unfairly targeted for review.

Monson, 47, who uses marijuana to relieve back pain, was notified by the Department of Motor Vehicles earlier this month that she needed to appear at a re-examination hearing Thursday — or lose her license.

Such hearings are held routinely for drivers involved in serious crashes or who have been cited for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol at least three times over three years.

Monson said with the exception of a speeding ticket 15 years ago, she had a spotless record. The DMV notice did not say why she was selected for re-examination.

"I still feel very strongly that I've done nothing wrong over to warrant this investigation," Monson said after being notified the hearing was scrapped.

Even a spokesman for Attorney General Bill Lockyer

seemed puzzled a DMV hearing was required in Monson's case.

"Quite frankly, I find it strange," spokesman Nathan Barankin said.

DMV brass put the hearing on hold and launched a "top to bottom" internal review after Monson and her lawyer delivered a cease-and-desist notice to agency headquarters, said spokesman Bill Branch.

"So far as top-level DMV officials can recall, we are not aware of any other cases involving medicinal marijuana," Branch said.

Monson had just passed an eye exam to renew her license when she was notified of the hearing. It arrived shortly after her medical marijuana case was heard by the nation's high court.

Monson is a plaintiff in a case that will determine whether federal law enforcement agents can seize pot grown by users in states where it can be legally prescribed as medicine.

California law allows people to grow, smoke or obtain marijuana for medical needs with a doctor's recommendation. Other states with such laws are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

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## FACES

## Brolin cited for battery

Actor Josh Brolin was cited for misdemeanor domestic battery over the weekend after his wife, actress Diane Lane, called police during an argument at the couple's Los Angeles home.

Brolin, the son of actor James Brolin and stepson of Barbara Streisand, was arrested at 3 a.m. Sunday and released on \$20,000 bail. Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney's office, said Monday. The city attorney is reviewing the case and no charges have been filed, he said. Domestic battery is a misdemeanor, Mateljan said.

Kelly Bush, the couple's spokeswoman, said the incident was a "misunderstanding" and the couple had reconciled.

## DiCaprio, Maguire sued

Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire have been sued by a producer who claims the two actors blocked distribution of a 1995 independent film they starred in. John Schneider says the actors warned potential distributors that DiCaprio wouldn't work with them on other projects if they released "Don't Tell Mom," a low-budget, black-and-white film about a group of friends hanging out at a diner.

The Superior Court complaint, filed Friday, claims they wrongly deny the movie was meant for commercial release and seeks \$38 million and unspecified damages. Messages left with DiCaprio's publicist, Ken Sunshine, and Maguire's publicist, Kelly Bush, weren't immediately returned Monday.

## Springsteen for charity

Once again, The Boss gave a boost to the seaside city where he rose to rock 'n' roll fame.

Bruce Springsteen performed two sold-out benefit concerts at a downtown Asbury Park tavern Sunday, raising about \$100,000 for local charities, and urged fans to support the city, which is emerging from decades of decline.

Merchants also credited Springsteen with boosting business by offering 10 people a pair of free tickets, along with the chance to meet him backstage, by entering a drawing that required them to visit an Asbury Park store.

The holiday benefits have become a tradition for Springsteen, a Freehold native who now lives in Rumson. Like Asbury Park, all the towns are in Monmouth County.

From The Associated Press

## The middle-aged muse

## Bill Murray has critical success as inspiration to Wes Anderson

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ  
Los Angeles Times

MOLLYWOOD uses as the most often thought of as comely, lithe and young. Throughout history, they've usually been depicted as female guides to inner wisdom that spark the imaginations of great men. But for director Wes Anderson, whose loopy reimagining of the filmmaking experience, "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou," opens this week, the muse has recently taken the form of a middle-aged man with faintly pockmarked skin, tufts of graying hair and sad, teardrop eyes — the comedian Bill Murray.

In fact, he's standing at the exact spot where the two first met eight or so years ago.

"That's the couch!" says Anderson, pointing to the divan in the bar at the Four Seasons Hotel, a lush expanse now covered with hipsters on the make.

That's the couch! deadpans Murray, who's in tow on this expedition.

The two have just spent an afternoon junketeering with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. It's the beginning of the pre-Oscar Christmas rush, when filmmakers and stars slip through special insider screenings in all the places where Hollywood tastemakers might congregate. Murray, who keeps an 800 number — which he never answers — for dealing with the business, isn't a common sight on the publicity circuit.

Yet here he is — affable and ge-



Los Angeles Times

Bill Murray stars in Wes Anderson's latest film, "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou."

nially uninhibited, in a blue blazer, blue sweater and gray pants. When it's time to sit down, he is almost courtly, pulling out the chair for a reporter and helping with her coat.

Although he's the same height as the 6-foot-1 Murray, Anderson seems half that size. He's thin like a stretched-out rubber band. At 35, he seems like a precocious kid wearing his dad's suit.

Drinks with the pair, who first teamed in 1998's "Rushmore," and one of "Aquatic's" producers, Barry Mendel, has an amiable, off-kilter quality, a semi-ironic jaunt

through an interview process that Anderson in fact lampoons with relish in "Aquatic." As in a Wes Anderson film, the surreal quality is softened by warmth, born here by the real affection between wunderkind director and his world-weary yet jaunty star.

Anderson, after all, enticed Murray to spend six months in Italy, for less than his customary fee, to play Zissou, a narcissistic

and broke oceanographer (Jacques Cousteau on a very bad day) who drags his band of misfits, his mistrustful brainy wife (Anjelica Huston), a pregnant journalist (Cate Blanchett) and a Southern pilot who might be his long-lost son (Owen Wilson) on a quixotic search for the mythical jaguar shark that ate his best friend.

Ask Murray about his recent career reblossoming — with his adoption by two of the leading young filmmakers of this generation, Anderson and Sofia Coppola — and he deadpans, with flirtatious faux naivete, "I'm an adult now. I'm not an ingenue anymore." Pressed, he answers more seriously, "I know why they've asked me. It's because I haven't really embarrassed myself. I don't think I've ruined myself, and I don't think Wes has, either."

I'm not overused. If you can do funny things, you can do serious things, too. I can do whatever's required."

Writers and critics are going to have a field day trying to come up with the appropriately incontinent adjective to describe "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou." Loopy. Zany. Wacky. Offbeat. It features one character who sings David Bowie songs throughout the movie — in Portuguese.

Anderson, who has worked with the precision of a short-story writer, has been unleashed structurally as well as financially with "The Life Aquatic."

He's made a picaresque opera, a Don Quixote-esque saga that costs in the neighborhood of \$50 million, more than twice the price of his last film, "The Royal Tenenbaums," which earned \$52 million at the domestic box office. For the Walt Disney Co., which financed the film, this is certainly a nervy move.

The director, who's been monitoring the clock on his cell phone, leaves. The topic shifts, to the ways these conversations go, to the man who just left the room. Has success changed Anderson? "Everyone changes a little bit when they have success and celebrity," says Murray, sounding like a grizzled eyewitness to that perpetual battle between ego and gratification.

Has Murray's own recent artistic success changed him? The actor seems genuinely pleased to be a part of Anderson's "oeuvre," just as he was to be part of Coppola's success last year with "Lost in Translation." "Though he didn't win the best actor Oscar, 'I didn't care,' he says.

"Honestly, I think I was in the best film of the year," he says, over the last sips of wine. "I loved my movie. That was the prize."

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## OPINION

## We have met the enemy in Iraq, and he isn't us

BY CLIFFORD D. MAY

Scripps Howard

When the Army of Ansar al Sunna, a group tied to al-Qaida, attacks an American base near Mosul, it should be clear that Iraq is the front line in the war on terrorism.

When Christian churches are bombed, as they were on the same day in the same part of Iraq, and Shiite mosques in Karbala and Najaf are targeted as well, it should be clear that the bombers are waging a most unholly war.

When Iraqi election workers are shot dead in the streets, as they were last week, the murderers' hatred for democracy ought to be obvious.

Yet somehow the debate goes on about whether those fighting us are really enemies of freedom, about whether it is imperative they be defeated.

The charge that Americans came to Iraq to steal oil is not much heard these days. Instead, the suicide bombers and throat-slitters are romanticized as "militants" — or even "nationalists" and "patriots" — who are "resisting American occupation."

When those "militants" do something particularly barbaric — summarily executing civilians, blowing up police stations, beheading aid workers — the conversation never dwells long on their crimes. Instead, controversy swirls around America's failure to control "the security situation."

Then, too, there are those who do not defend the killers but argue that the continuing carnage proves the United States can't overcome this foe. What's the point of a military

machine that can topple Saddam Hussein in a few weeks but has to give Iraq back to his cronies a few years later? Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, much criticized of late, appears to understand this. A few days ago, he frankly acknowledged the urgent need to "develop a military designed to meet the challenges of this era."

The military we have now, he explained, "is, in many ways, still organized, trained and equipped for the more conventional challenges of the past century, when wars were conducted largely between large navies, armies and air forces."

Our current enemies, by contrast, are fighting an "unconventional" war. The combatants who attacked Forward Operating Base Marez outside Mosul were not attempting to win a battle in the conventional sense; they did not hope to seize the camp any more than the suicide-terrorists who attacked on Sept. 11 planned to station tanks in New York and Washington.

Instead, the goal of the terrorists is to stay to slaughter and, of course, terrorize. By so doing, they mean to destroy our will to fight. Lose the will to fight, by definition, you have been defeated, no matter how high-tech your weaponry, no matter how many troops you have riding in armored Humvees.

On a visit to Iraq this week, British Prime Minister Tony Blair succinctly characterized the state of this conflict. "There surely is only one side to be on in what is now very clearly a battle between democracy and terror," he said.

On the one side, you have people who desperately want to make the democratic process work and want to have the same type of



democratic freedoms other parts of the world enjoy. And on the other side, people who are killing and intimidating and trying to destroy a better future for Iraq. ... Our response should be to stand alongside the democrats — the people who've got the courage to see this thing through — and help them see it through. I've got no doubt at all that this is the right thing for us to do."

The enemy in Iraq is brutal, ruthless and, yes, evil. But they are not stupid. They know that every time they stage a massacre, millions of people get angry, not at them, but at Don Rumsfeld and President Bush and Prime Minister Blair and the "neo-cons."

"We have seen ... the weakness of the American soldier who is ... unprepared to fight long wars," Osama bin Laden said in 1998, as he began contemplating his next attacks. "It also proves they can run in less than 24 hours, and this was also repeated in Somalia. We are ready for all occasions."

Only when the kind of butchery we witnessed this week strengthens, rather than weakens, our resolve will the barbarians see that the road they have chosen is a dead end — figuratively and literally.

Clifford D. May is the president of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a policy institute focusing on terrorism.

## Laurels for crossing the Delaware are legitimate

WASHINGTON Let's get this straight: The greatest Christmas in American history was not the result of the Germans being drunk or hung over. Gen. George Washington lost most of his battles

George Will

— it has been said the Revolutionary War was won by brilliant retreating — so let's not diminish any of his victories, and certainly not the one without which American independence probably would have been extinguished like a candle in a gale.

Among the many things that "everyone knows" that just are not so is that the 2,400 men of the Continental Army won the Battle of Trenton, an operation that began on the night of Dec. 25, 1776, because the Hessian mercenaries had partaken too vigorously of Christmas drink. According to David Hackett Fischer, whose "Washington's Crossing" was a finalist for the 2004 National Book Award, the Hessians were weary from a week of constant vigilance against attacks by local insurgents, but fought well.

Not well enough, however, to prevent what Fischer, a Brandeis historian, says was "combined, over the next eight days, with a second battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton — the most important victory in U.S. military history. Since the Declaration of Independence on July 4, the Americans had lost every battle fought to make independence a fact. The military disasters inflicted by 33,000 British and German troops in what is now Brooklyn, and on Manhattan Island, contributed to Washington losing 90 percent of his army. New Jersey's loyalty was tilting toward the crown.

By marching his shivering men to the banks of the ice-clogged Delaware River, and making the crossing that became the subject of the most famous American painting, Washington risked everything. Had he lost the gamble — had his men been repulsed from Trenton and pinned against the river — the continent would have been lost ... and subsequent world history would have been very different.

In New York, Washington had wept while watching through a spyglass as the British massacred Americans who had surrendered. But Washington, Fischer writes, "often reminded his men that they were an army of liberty and freedom, and that the rights of humanity for which they were fighting should extend even to their enemies." To the American officer in charge of 221 prisoners taken at Princeton, Washington said, "Treat them with humanity, and let them have no reason to complain of our copying

the brutal example of the British army in their treatment of our unfortunate brethren." ... As historian Edmund Morgan says, Washington had "made the war itself an example of what the Revolution meant."

Dining with Washington after surrendering to him at Yorktown, Gen. Charles Cornwallis, who had commanded the forces at Princeton that rushed to relieve Trenton, offered this toast: "Fame will gather your shining laurels rather than from those of the Chesapeake."

Unfortunately, many small historians believe their function is to deny large men any laurels. Fischer sternly reprimands such historians who have "served us ill." In the late twentieth century, too many scholars tried to make the American past into a record of crime and folly. Too many writers have told us we are captives of our darker selves and helpless victims of our history. It isn't so,

and never was."

One reason Americans have made so much history is that they have never believed in History. One of the unfortunate intellectual developments of the 19th century, principally in Europe, was the transformation of history into a proper noun. It denoted a vast impersonal force with its own unfolding logic. ... Marxism was the most consequential doctrine of historical inevitability, but there were others.

Such theories induce fatalism by diminishing mankind's sense of agency. They mock the idea of great people, and the belief that the free choices of small groups could knock History out of its preordained grooves.

Such ideas have largely lost their ability to seize imaginations. ... Still, it is exhilarating to be reminded by historians just how radically wrong the historicists were, and are.

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Officer suspended

**VA VIRGINIA BEACH**

A police officer arrested during an alleged drug buy has been suspended from the force.

Jason Todd Armentrout, 30, who is being held without bond in the city jail, was off-duty and not armed when he was taken into custody, police said.

Don Rimer, a police spokesman, said Armentrout's arrest came after his name surfaced amid a much larger investigation. The probe by the department's Special Investigative Narcotics Unit began almost one year ago.

Its target has been people involved in the possession, sale and distribution of illegal narcotics, specifically Ecstasy and methamphetamine, Rimer said.

Investigators saw Armentrout and other suspects and watched as they attempt to purchase Ecstasy, Rimer said. Armentrout is charged with attempted possession of a controlled substance.

## Rare texts, books sold

**OH COLUMBUS** — A former employee of the Kenyon College library has pleaded guilty to selling 50 rare books and other documents from the school's collection for \$26,000.

David Breithaupt now faces up to two years in prison and a fine of as much as \$250,000, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Breithaupt, 45, sold most of the items, many of which were more than 100 years old, on eBay to buyers in 19 other states and four foreign countries. The sales took place between 1998 and 2002.

A copy made in 1526 of Ptolemy's "Almagest," an astronomy text originally written in ancient Greece, fetched the highest price at \$4750, court documents said. Several other items sold were from the 15th and 16th centuries. Breithaupt has agreed to pay restitution for recovery of the items.

## School can go co-ed

**NY ALBANY** — A judge has denied a request by two students at Wells College, an all-women liberal arts school, for an injunction to halt the institution's plan to allow men to enroll.

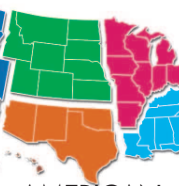
Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter Cornin said the main issue was the continued survival of the school. The lawsuit is challenging the coed decision on several grounds, including breach of contract.

## Ape comes home

**CA SAN FRANCISCO** — A 23-year-old ape from Buffalo, N.Y., has returned to the San Francisco Zoo, his boyhood home, as the new king of Gorilla World.

In early January, he'll be liberated from quarantine and become the exhibit's top dog, filling a vacancy created in May when Kubi, its longtime patriarch, died. Since then, the four females have been left to their own devices. Anything, or nothing, could happen.

"They've been on their own without a male for a while," said gorilla keeper Gary Kerr. "They might have gotten the independent gene and not want to be dominated anymore. We'll see when he comes over whether his animal magnetism overcomes their inde-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

pendent streak."

## Hole forces evacuation

**FL DELTONA** — A sinkhole opened beneath a road in central Florida, swallowing four lanes of pavement and forcing the evacuation of 20 homes.

Officials had been watching the hole after noticing collapsed asphalt on a street. Workers were pumping a cement mixture under the damaged road when the hole formed.

"All of the sudden, they started feeling rumblings in the ground," said Robert Rogers, deputy chief of the fire department in Deltona, about 25 miles southwest of Daytona Beach.

The ground opened up, destroying all four lanes. The hole grew to 50 feet deep and at least 150 feet wide.

The sinkhole also threatened to take down a major power line and forced authorities to evacuate 20 homes near the electrical wires.

## Toy guns pulled

**NY ALBANY** — Thousands of toy guns have been pulled from the shelves of costume shops across the state as part of a settlement between the New York attorney general's office and two national wholesalers.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had accused the wholesalers of distributing more than 12,000 toy guns in 2001 in violation of a state law that previously applied only to

retailers. Most of the wholesalers dealt with costume and novelty shops.

The state law bans realistic toy guns from being sold in stores unless they have permanent, usually inch-wide orange stripes running down both sides of the barrel.

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Rubie's Costumes Co. agreed to pay \$27,000 in civil penalties and costs and Franco American Novelty Co. agreed to pay \$10,000.

## Flight may be abuse

**IN BLOOMINGTON** — Some Indiana University students could face a hefty fine for tossing a guinea pig from a dormitory window with a makeshift parachute.

The students used a garbage bag, dental floss and masking tape to create a parachute and then dropped the animal, Bloomington Animal Shelter manager Leigh Ann Hoffacker said.

Fortunately, the guinea pig landed in a tree and survived. The trembling rodent was discovered moments later by freshman Laura Robinson.

School janitors were able to reach the animal through a third-floor window and Robinson took it to the shelter.

The identities of the students who tossed the guinea pig have yet to be determined, but Hoffacker said the list has been narrowed down by dorm administration.

Police likely would not do much, she said, but the shelter's animal control office can issue a \$500 ticket for animal abuse.

## Cocaine found in wreck

**WV WHEELING** — Authorities called to the scene of a plane crash found no people — dead or alive — but they did find \$24 million worth of cocaine. Federal authorities were seeking the pilot, identified as Eugene N. Cobbs, a charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, U.S. Attorney Thomas E. Johnston.

The Piper Aerostar twin-engine plane crashed in a wooded area near the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport, said James Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Authorities found about 327 pounds of cocaine packaged in blocks and another 193 pounds turned up in the plane's nose compartment, Johnston said. Authorities were searching for a man believed to be Cobbs, who was picked up by a motorist near the airport's front entrance. His forehead was cut and he asked for a ride to a hotel.

## Couple pays town's bills

**IA ANTHON** — Home and business owners in this northwest Iowa town of 650 people were a little shocked at a Christmas gift they got from retired farmer Richard Hamann and his wife, Donna.

The Hamanns doled out \$25,000 to pay the town's electricity bills — all due on Dec. 25.

Hamann, 75, sees the gift as returning a good deed. Residents said they were surprised and grateful.

"I just thought it was great," said Beulah Sands, 64, a clerk at a local convenience store who never talked to anyone who didn't appreciate it. It was a wonderful thing for him to do."



**Massive reading assignment** Jessica Zampella, foreground, and other students at Central Elementary in Oxford, Miss., are sprawled out on the floor as they attempt to collectively read 12,000 pages.



## Making kids happy

Salvation Army volunteer Barb Reigelerspiger of Naples, N.Y., tries to fit a few more toys on one of the tables as she sets up for a toy distribution. People who pre-registered could choose five gifts per child, as well as a pair of mittens and stocking-stuffer gifts.



**On the way up**

A skier takes a ride on the ski lift at Paoli Peaks in Paoli, Ind.





## Zamboni explodes

Duluth, Minn., firefighters run hoses to battle a blaze at Peterson Arena in West Duluth after a Zamboni exploded inside the arena.



## Jogger's best friends

Lisa Schlimmer jogs with her dogs, Josie, left, and Lacey, at the city playfields in Pullman, Wash. Schlimmer is a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.



## Stacked for fire

Heath Melancon, from Grand Point near Luther, La., trims the last logs on an 18-foot-high bonfire structure on the Mississippi River levee, that will be lit at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve.



## White Christmas

A Christmas tree stands in the gazebo at Kershaw Park along Canandaigua Lake in Canandaigua, N.Y.

## Letter finally sent

**WI** INDEPENDENCE — Jane Matchey recently became better acquainted with the late father she never met after receiving a letter he wrote six decades ago.

When Sgt. Henry Longmier left to fight in World War II, his new wife Teresa was pregnant with Jane, who was born about two months later.

But the 31-year-old soldier was killed by a German sniper in Belgium in the waning days of the Battle of the Bulge on Jan. 25, 1945.

Prior to that, in late 1944, he and three other soldiers lived in a Dutch village for a time in the home of the Neederlants family.

It seems Longmier neglected to mail the letter to his wife in Wisconsin. When the soldiers moved on, a Neederlants family member discovered the letter while cleaning the room they stayed in.

Only recently did the Neederlants' grandson, Lando Mulleners, 38, become curious about its intended recipient, having heard stories of the soldiers.

## 5 arrested on Cape Cod

**MA** ORLEANS — Five people were arrested and more than \$1.6 million worth of jewelry, paintings and marine equipment was recovered on Cape Cod, authorities said. Police identified those arrested as George Upton, 52, his brother, Frank Upton, 41, and Mark Fornal, 41. Police said they found the paintings behind a fake wall and jewelry in a hollowed-out staircase in Frank Upton's home.

## Rage cited in crash

**FL** LARGO — Two cars raced in a deadly dance of road rage, police said.

The Lexus pulled in front of the Volkswagen and slammed on the brakes. Then the Volkswagen did the same. The leaping continued until the Volkswagen smashed into a utility pole, fatally injuring the driver, Jacquelyn Pally, 20. Two passengers in her car were injured.

The young man seen driving the Lexus drove away after the crash, police Sgt. Andy Hill said.

## Santa Claus shot

**CA** OXNARD — Police were dispatched to the large Santa Claus statue here after shots were fired at it.

Officers found five bullet holes marring the jolly face of old St. Nick. Five 9 mm casings were lying on the street nearby, police said.

Mike Barber, Santa's caretaker, said the gunshots shattered the lenses on Santa's glasses and broke the frames. He and a friend used screws, glue and wire to patch the frames back together.

The 20-foot, nearly five-ton plaster Santa statue was moved in January 2003 from Santa Barbara County to the lot on Ventura Boulevard. The statue had stood for 50 years on top of a malt shop and candy store near Carpinteria.

## Sole witness dies

**MD** BALTIMORE — The sole witness to the fatal shooting of a civilian police employee in 1974 has died of a heart attack, police said.

Police declined to name the witness and they insisted the death will not affect the prosecution of Michael Hughes, who had been a fugitive for 30 years before his arrest in Boston this fall.

The shooting occurred Christmas Eve 1974 and before the arrest ranked as one of the city's coldest cases. McKinley Johnson Jr. was distributing Christmas food baskets at a west Baltimore bar when he got into an argument with Hughes, police said. The alleged confrontation continued outside the bar where Johnson was shot.

## Big garages for big cars

**AZ** MESA — Now not only is keeping up with the Joneses a daily pressure, but it may become a law.

The town of Gilbert is considering changing its zoning code to set a minimum interior garage size for homes in this southeast Phoenix suburb.

"We drive Suburbans, Excursions and Silverado extended cabs, and they won't fit in small garages," said Planning and Zoning Commission chairwoman Brigitte Peterson at a recent meeting on the proposed land development code.

When recommending the change, town staff told the commission that 74 percent of registered vehicles in Gilbert are trucks or sport utility vehicles.

The current code only requires two enclosed parking spaces and has no size minimum.

## Aging center renamed

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah is changing the name of its center that focuses on older Americans. The school's Gerontology Center will become the Center on Aging, a change the school says reflects increases in Utah's 65-and-older population.

That group increased 27 percent in the last 10 years, and will rise another 28 percent in the next decade.

## Welfare caseloads drop

**NJ** TRENTON — Worker caseloads at the state's child welfare system have dropped by almost 10 percent since officials began working in July to reform the agency. However, officials said the caseloads still exceed the target set in the reform plan. The Division of Youth and Family Services has a troubled history that includes the deaths of some children and abuse of others who were supposed to be under supervision.

## \$100K reward offered

**MS** JACKSON — An anonymous donor has posted a \$100,000 reward for information leading to murder charges in one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era — the "Freedom Summer" slayings of three civil rights workers in 1964.

The reward will be administered by an independent organization as the state renews efforts to bring charges in the killings of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman.

In 1964, the three volunteers helping to register black voters were murdered on a lonely dirt road as they drove to a church to investigate a fire.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Horoscope

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the stars, not a planet is stirring, except of course Mars, who happens to be packing his bags and heading for the adventuresland of Sagittarius. It's a real "ho-ho" of a transit for aggressive Mars, emphasizing the need for excitement, novelty and human connection.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 24).** You've been ready for something different for a while now, and one big change at the start of the year sets the tone for your adventure! When you stop waiting for others and take matters into your own hands, you may, improve your life or transform an ailing relationship. In April, your improved confidence brings money flowing in.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The bustle and clamor of the season have provided distraction in recent days, but now, you're clear and centered with your heart in the right place. Your best creations are made expressly with lots of love for one special person.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If done your way, the holiday is bright. Be specific and repetitive with all information you'd like your guests to know. If not, you'll be receiving company at all odd hours, and the events unfold in a haphazard manner.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You have a way of adhering to formality in the most casual and elegant manner! A new life of the old mixed in with the new is your recipe for a holiday that makes everyone feel included.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** This is a red-letter day, especially if there's a gathering at your place. Family and friends behave just how you thought they would, but you have a few unexpected surprises planned to jump-start the celebratory energy.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The

anticipation of a holiday is for you even better than the holiday itself — and that's why you love night before revelry. Evening rituals come together nicely. Your bighearted extravagance is the talk of the party.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your whole being swells with philanthropic energy and good will. Though home and hearth are where kindness begins, they are not where it ends. You're fulfilled when you get out and share with the world.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Your senses are turned on and tuned in to the natural offerings of the season — tangerines and walnuts, the smell of burning logs and bite of cold air. Your job is to help others appreciate things as completely as you do.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Your mission is one of outreach. Through the phone and the Internet, you spread your spirited mood to the corners of the globe — or at least the country. Don't hold back! Be mushy! Loved ones long to hear it.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You turn even the simplest of tasks — like wrapping a present — into a holiday extravaganza. Why not involve as many elements and people as you possibly can? The more the merrier, right?

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your kindness is legendary. You should know that loved ones have expectations of you based on what you've done in the past. Honor your own traditions. It feels like coming home.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You like to keep things loose because, to you, overplanning makes proceedings forced and stiff. Be the one to instigate an impromptu game. You'll fill your house with laughter and warm feelings.

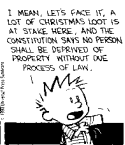
## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your individuality is marvelous. You're celebrating in your own quirky way. A procession of interesting twists and turns in the plot today makes it impossible to do things other people's way anyhow.

## Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



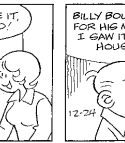
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse

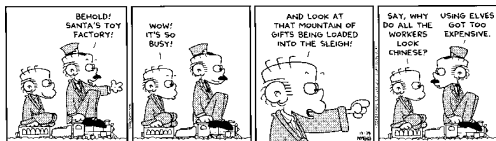


## Peanuts

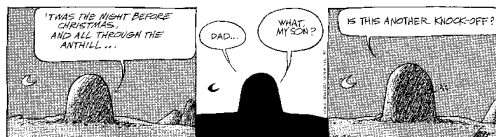




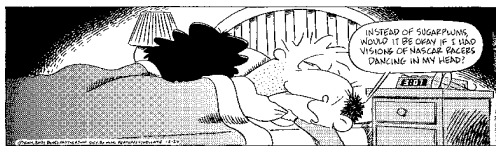
Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



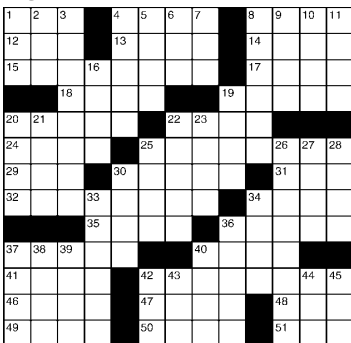
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Brewery product
- 4 History chapters
- 8 Nightfall
- 12 Zodiac critter
- 13 Comedian Chris
- 14 "— Brockovich"
- 15 Anti-Red withhunter
- 17 Day-shift start
- 18 Hollywood clashers
- 19 Elbow
- 20 Slander
- 22 Garden starter
- 24 Hidesaway
- 25 Kenobi portrayr
- 29 Grecian vessel
- 30 "... against a — troubles"
- 31 Sapporo sash
- 32 Nixon opponent
- 34 Proteruberance
- 35 Lap dog, for short
- 36 Disconcerts
- 37 Cheaper group?
- 40 Antitoxins
- 41 Square
- 42 "Full dinner paid" president
- 46 Old man of Paris?
- 47 Destruction
- 48 Seine summer
- 49 Cattle herder's device
- 50 Put in the mail
- 51 Adage

## Down

- 1 Branch
- 2 Fond du —, Wisconsin
- 3 Host's job
- 4 Gilch
- 5 Decomposes
- 6 Essen expletive
- 7 Firmament
- 8 Strip, host
- 9 Saharan
- 10 Pugilists' venue
- 11 Dangling site
- 16 Emulsifying agent
- 19 Soft ball
- 20 Run-down, part of town
- 21 Playwright
- 22 Connolly
- 22 Frighten
- 23 "Ghostbusters" role
- 25 Earth's inheritors?
- 26 Ashcroft's intended successor
- 27 Reed instrument
- 28 BBQ entree
- 30 Cinematographer
- 31 Nykist
- 33 Began
- 34 "Family Feud" host
- 36 Mock attack
- 37 "Edward Scissorhands" star
- 38 Finished
- 39 Nil
- 40 Epidemics
- 42 "— Miniver"
- 43 Prompt
- 44 JFK info
- 45 Evergreen variety

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-24

## CRYPTOQUIP

X GFC'L EFK LSK  
 JXIXKJR JKZXF, RELSFTZS  
 X ZTKBB X'G ZF LSKJK

RB RERBL JKBFLJL  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TINY PARASITES GET INTO MAILED ITEMS, SHOULD YOU PAY MORE FOR SHIPPING FLEAS?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

# Is relationship with family worth it?

**Dear Abby:** From the time that my father left—I was 8—until I was thrown out of the house at 16, my mother was seriously emotionally abusive and neglectful. She frequently called me filthy names, made bizarre accusations that had no basis in truth, told me I was a “mistake,” threatened me, publicly humiliated and belittled me.

I am now in my mid-20s and have had no contact with my mother for three years. My older brother is in denial about the abuse and insists that I forgive her and rebuild our relationship. He claims that she's sorry and she misses me.

I recently traveled back to my hometown and visited my mother. She treated me as though I were a stranger.

Afterward, I felt that I could move on, knowing I had done the right thing in deciding to cut her out of my life. Now the rest of the

family has turned their backs on me. I would like to maintain a personal relationship with them, but they think I'm a bad person for no longer having a relationship with my mother. Do you have any advice?

—Left in the Cold in Duluth

**Dear Left in the Cold:** Only this: If the price of having a relationship with your family is tolerating their emotional blackmail and more abuse from your mother, the price is too high.

**Dear Abby:** Not long ago, we moved into a beautiful new housing development.

Neighbors on the street behind us keep their puppy penned up outside day and night in all kinds of weather. Occasionally we see one of their neighbors walk the dog, but other than that, it seems the dog's existence is limited to a cement pad covered in you-know-what.

We would rather not call the homeowners' association or the Humane Society, as these neighbors seem like decent people. However, it is upsetting our small children, as well as my husband and me, to hear our poor animal cry. We can't imagine spending the next 10 years like this. What do you recommend we do?

**Dear Canine Lovers:** Although you would rather not, for the puppy's sake, pick up the phone and contact the homeowners' association and the Humane Society. You'll be doing the neglected creature—and yourself—a favor.

The owners of that poor animal have no idea how to properly care for a dog. The Humane Society will instruct them on the proper care of their furry family member.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



behind us keep their puppy penned up outside day and night in all kinds of weather. Occasionally we see one of their neighbors walk the dog, but other than that, it seems the dog's existence is limited to a cement pad covered in you-know-what.

# Handicaps not always visible

**Dear Annie:** I've never written before, but after reading your response to “President of an Assisted Health Care Services in Kansas” in the Wisconsin State Journal, I feel the need. He said handicapped parking spaces should be used only by those in wheelchairs. Thank you for your response to this senseless person.

My 80-year-old mother is probably one of those people he complained about. Mom has a collapsed lung, has had back surgery and is prone to blood clots forming in her one good lung. This makes breathing very difficult at times. Yet if you look at her, she seems fine. It's only when you watch closely that you realize she stops every hundred feet or so to catch her breath. There are days she can barely walk down the living room without stopping to rest.

Sure, the system gets abused, but I have a little compassion. You never know what prob-

lems might be hidden from view. —Madison, Wis.

**Dear Madison:** That writer said we could print his name, but we thought that might not be such a good idea. Read on for more reasons why.

**From Arizona:** My wonderful daughter-in-law has MS. She usually has no trouble walking, but at times she gets a tingling in her legs that tells her she only has a few minutes to find a place to rest. I'd like to kick that Kansas Health Care manager right where he won't need a wheelchair, but will have trouble walking.

**Southwest Florida:** I'm handicapped but do not require a wheelchair because I can walk short distances. Once inside the store I latch onto a cart, even if I only need a loaf of bread, because the cart serves nicely as a walker. Those handicapped

spaces make a huge difference to me.

**Mississippi:** Thank you. Miss Abby. Thank you. As a nurse, I know of so many people who, like you said, need every ounce of energy just to breathe. My mother, while not in a wheelchair, is considered handicapped because of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. She needs that handicapped spot.

**Perth, Calif.:** My best friend has rheumatoid arthritis, and every step he takes is painful. Another friend had major surgery and breathes through a tracheotomy. How could anyone object to shortening the distance between car and building for these people? I find it appalling that a healthy person would begrudge the slightest favor to those unfortunate enough to need handicapped parking.

**Ann Landers column:** Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



# JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**DRAC**

**LAURR**

**LENETS**

**TASTLE**

**A: THE**

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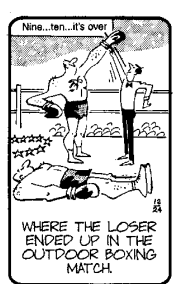
**THE**

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

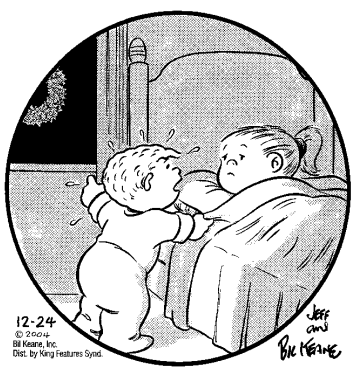


Now arrange the circled letters to form the Surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

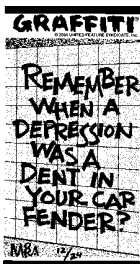
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENEMY STOKE TANDEM ESTATE Answer: Despite a tight budget, he bought a new luxury do when it was hard to—MAKE ENDS MEET

# Family Circus



“Dolly! I think I heard some clatter out on the lawn!”



Dennis the Menace



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Stupid clerks

## FRIDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 24, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P •ESPNews Pacific Report How the Grinch Stole Christmas			*** "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946, Fantasy) James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. An angel saves a distraught businessman from suicide.					Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)		Late Show (CC)
7	AFN-AT [5:46] O'Grady Win- frey (CC)	[3:55] Guiding Light (CC)	[1:17] General Hos- pital (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)					Teacher's Pet (EI) [CC]	What's New Scoo- by-Do? (CC)
8	NEWS Hardball with Chris Matthews The O'Reilly Factor (CC)			Primetime Thursday (CC)		Fox and Friends			Fox and Friends		American Morning	
9	SPTS [5:00] College Football Plains/Capitol Fort Worth Bowl - Cincinnati vs. Marshall. From Fort Worth, Texas. (Taped)			***College Football Pioneer/PanView Las Vegas Bowl - UCLA vs. Wyoming. From Las Vegas. (Taped)								
10	SPEC The Simpsons [5:00] "The Simpsons" [5:00] "The Simpsons" [5:00] "The Simpsons"	Everybody Loves Raymond. Cobra kills the Sky! (CC)	Charmed The Cleaners cover for the Charmed One by fanning Darryl as a murderer. (CC)	Boston Public "Chapter Forty" Dana Parker returns to Winslow. Lushultz may have a son. (CC)	Blue Planet: Seas of Life "Seasonal Seas" Sunlight is used as an energy source by plankton. (CC)	Friends Phoebe finds a police offi- cer's badge. (CC)	Seinfeld George learns what to leave. (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
11	AFN-FL Rugrats The Santa Express [5:00] "Rugrats" [5:00] "Rugrats"	Scrooby-Do [5:00] "Scrooby-Do" [5:00] "Scrooby-Do"	Barbie in the Nutcracker (CC)	*** "The Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966, Comedy) Bill Bixby, Karen Allen, Carol Kane.	*** "Mad in Manhattan" (2002, Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes) [5:00] "Mad in Manhattan"	*** "The Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor.	Home Improve. [5:00] "Home Improve"	Home Improve. [5:00] "Home Improve"				
12	AFM [6:45] *** "Gloria" (1989, Diana Ross, Dennis Washington, Norman Macdonald, Premiere. A young Union leader forms an all-black regiment. R)			*** "Gander Man" (1992, Howard Stern, Madonna, Todd, Xander Berkeley. A family's long history is discovered. A mythological killer. (CC)	Washington Week (CC)	West Street Week With Fortune (R) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	Tucker Carlson: Unfiltered (N) (CC)	Journal Editorial (CC)	Charlie Rose Richard Armitage. (N)		
24	PBS Dragon Tales Live [5:00] "Dragon Tales" [5:00] "Dragon Tales"	Zoom Burrito bios (CC) (DVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)	*** "Pulp Fiction" (1994, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman, Laurence Fishburne. Criminals cross paths in three interrelated tales of mayhem. R) (CC)								
25	SHOW *** "Unforgettable" (1996, Supercop) Ray Liotta, Lisa Fienberg, Peter On- the. An experimental drug holds the key to identifying a killer. R) (CC)											
27	A&E City Confidential Los Angeles: Si- cily Partnered Two former cop part- nership ends in murder. (CC)	Sell This House Transforming a Chicago home. (CC)	Sell This House Selling a Denver home. (CC)	Sell This House Seattle home pro- ject. (CC)	Sell This House Seattle home pro- ject. (CC)	Maquodema's Holiday Special Oquirrhini's home at holidays. (N) (CC)	A Vanessa Williams Christmas Live Request The recording artist performs fans' requests at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, N.J. (Live)					
28	DISC To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	Africa's Great Rivers (CC)	Africa's Great Rivers (CC)	Wild and Dangerous	To Be Announced	To Be Announced				
29	TFC Wazz Up Wazz Up [5:00] "Wazz Up Wazz Up"	Star Circle Guest [5:00] "Star Circle Guest"	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss (CC)	(55) Insider [5:00] "Insider"	Dong Pung Live (CC)	Belling America (CC)	Morning Star (CC)	(4:40) Masayangi Tangbay Bayan				
30	CNN+ [5:00] "Jelly King Live" (CC)	Capital Open at Arenal Highlights [5:00] "Capital Open at Arenal Highlights"	World Sport (CC)	Business International (CC)	Asia Tonight (CC)	What's in the News (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	Biz Asia (CC)	The Music Room (CC)		
31	GOLF [5:00] "Jelly King Live" (CC)	Capital Open at Arenal Highlights [5:00] "Capital Open at Arenal Highlights"	World Sport (CC)	Business International (CC)	Asia Tonight (CC)	What's in the News (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	Biz Asia (CC)	The Music Room (CC)		
32	TLC Clean Sweep Bring It All Into Focus [5:00] "Clean Sweep"	Four in Focus [5:00] "Four in Focus"	Teens (CC)	Powerful Girls! (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon (CC)	Looney Tunes (CC)	I am Wessel (CC)	Sheep in the Big City (CC)	Investigative Squad (CC)			
34	TOON Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends (CC)	Teen Titans (CC)	Powerful Girls! (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon (CC)	Looney Tunes (CC)	I am Wessel (CC)	Sheep in the Big City (CC)	Investigative Squad (CC)				
35	ANPL The Crocodile Hunter "Jungle in the Shadows" "Tribal Hunters and New Sunset talk. (CC)	Most Extreme "Swarm" Documenting wildlife that gathers in swarms. (CC)	Venom ER A venom victim is twisting uncontrollably when he arrives at a hos- pital. (CC)	Animal Precinct "Lost and Found" Starring dog case investigated, stray found in Brooklyn. (CC)	Animal Precinct "Terror Rescue" Neglected wire-haired fox terrier dis- covered. (CC)	Premium Blend John Sheehy, Car- olyn Lynch. (N)	Reason to Com- plain The comic shares his views on the economy of the world and altered the ge- ography of the world. (CC)	Seconds From Disaster "Inferno at California's Explosions rock a Mexican juggernaut. (CC)				
36	COM Shorts Watch! [5:00] "Shorts Watch!"	Strangers With Candy Girls Get into. (CC)	The Daily Show With David Sewer. (CC)	The World Stands Up Max Alexander (CC)	Elephant Power (CC)	Club Comic View "Spotlight Comic" [5:00] "Club Comic View"	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (CC)	The Bob Newhart Show "An Ameri- can Family" (CC)	The Bob Newhart Show "You Good- bye, You Good- bye!" (CC)			
40	NOCA- Disaster! Understanding and preparing for avalanches and landslides. (CC)	Sneak Warnings "Quack Invasion" [5:00] "Sneak Warnings"	Croc Chronicles "Quack Invasion" [5:00] "Croc Chronicles"	Ghosts of the Cannibals [5:00] "Ghosts of the Cannibals"	Unleash "Hardwood Dreams 2: 10 Years Later" L.A. Morning [5:00] "Unleash"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"
42	SPK Remington Steele "A Pocket Full of Steel" A serial kidnapper teams with a crime network from Los Angeles. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [5:00] "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"
44	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live [5:00] "106 & Park"	Black College Top Wrap-Up (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	*** "Soul Food" (1997, Comedy-Drama) LaShawn Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long. Domestic battles and illness threaten a close-knit family. (CC)	
46	COURT Hollywood Heat [5:00] "Hollywood Heat"	Body of Evidence [5:00] "Body of Evidence"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"	Cops Officer [5:00] "Cops Officer"
48	STR-UD The Simpsons [5:00] "The Simpsons"	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)
50	LIFE The Golden Girls [5:00] "The Golden Girls"	The Golden Girls [5:00] "The Golden Girls"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"	*** A Song for the Season [5:00] "A Song for the Season"
51	ABC-FL 7th Heaven "What I Expecting That" A mysterious stranger wanders into the Carmen home. (CC)	Piccochio's Christmas [5:00] "Piccochio's Christmas"	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	*** "Prancer" (1989, Drama) Rebecca Hamilton, Sam Elliot, Chris Lachman. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health. (CC)	
53	HIST Jean's Mysterious Pyramids (CC)	Madam Marvels! [5:00] "Madam Marvels!"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"	Battlefield Detectors "The Mexican American War: Battle of Palo Alto" [5:00] "Battlefield Detectors"
57	STR-IV [5:00] "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"	*** "The Simpsons"
59	MTV Laguna Beach [5:00] "Laguna Beach"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"	The Real World [5:00] "The Real World"
60	NICK SpongeBob [5:00] "SpongeBob"	Rugrats [5:00] "Rugrats"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"	Scaredy Camp [5:00] "Scaredy Camp"

## JAPAN TV

Morning  
7:30 News (12)  
5:00 News (6)  
Evening  
7:30 News (12)  
8:30 Planet Rugby (42)  
9:00 Football Mundial (42)  
10:00 News (12)  
11:30 Kong Kong Movie (1999): Fly Me to  
Paris (L50) (12)  
4:00 Classical Music (11X)

7:15 World News  
8:15 World News  
9:15 World News  
10:15 World News  
11:15 World News  
12:15 World News  
13:15 World News  
14:15 World News  
15:15 World News  
16:15 World News  
17:15 World News  
18:15 World News  
19:15 World News  
20:15 World News  
21:15 World News  
22:15 World News  
23:15 World News  
24:15 World News

11:15 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (R): Ich-  
iro (12)  
12:10 Figure Skating GP Series in China:  
Final: Men's Singles  
1:10 Figure Skating GP Series in China: Final:  
Men's Pairs  
2:15 Asian News  
3:15 World Amazing Sports  
4:15 Asian News  
5:15 World News  
6:15 World News

## JAPAN TV B11

Morning  
10:21 Cartoon  
Evening  
7:00 News  
12:30 Classical Music: Opera de Paris -  
"Sleeping Beauty" (r)

## WOWOW

Morning  
11:30 U.S. Movie (2002): National Security  
(L30)  
Afternoon  
1:00 U.S. Movie (1994): The River Wild (2:00)  
4:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola  
Evening  
8:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola  
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Sighings: Heartland  
Club (135)  
11:35 U.S. Friends: Friends the Final  
3:45 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Holland vs.  
Latvia  
5:50 U.S. Movie (2003): Special Forces (1:40)

## MTV

Morning  
6:00 Wake Up  
7:00 M Size Thursday

8:00 Top Choice  
10:00 Pure Music  
11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 #9-10  
12:00 Classic 90's  
1:00 Screen  
1:30 Consensus: Orange Range  
2:00 The Super Dry Live Special: Ayumi  
Hamasaki, Goud Charlotte, m-to, Misa  
Christina and Mary J. Blige  
10:30 Other: Jackass Edition  
11:00 World Chart Express Supported by  
1:00 VATA  
2:00 M Size Friday  
3:00 Cool Christmas 2004  
4:00 After Hours

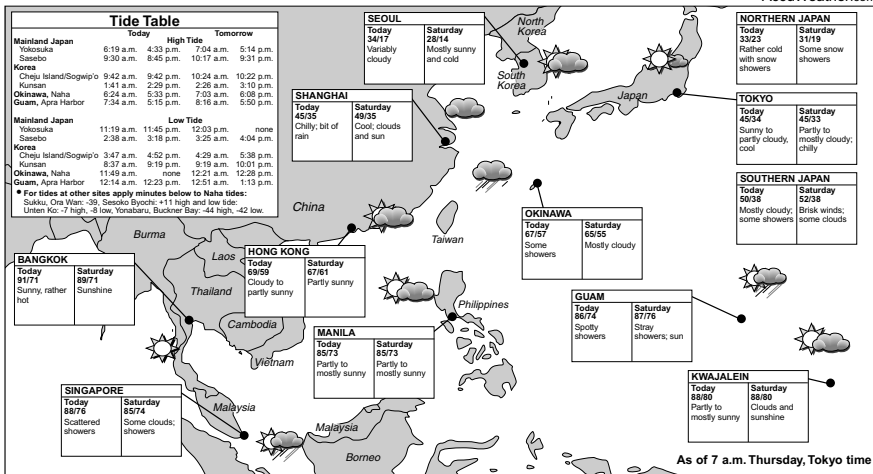
## JAPAN TV-B57

Morning  
6:15 World News

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AccuWeather.com

## The Pacific Forecast



## Extended Forecasts

## TOKYO

Sunday: Partly sunny, high 47, low 37.  
 Monday: Partly sunny, high 48, low 39.

## KADENA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 67, low 57.  
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 69, low 60.

## SEOUL

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 30, low 14.  
 Monday: Partly sunny, high 29, low 6.

## MANILA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 73.  
 Monday: Mostly cloudy, high 83, low 73.

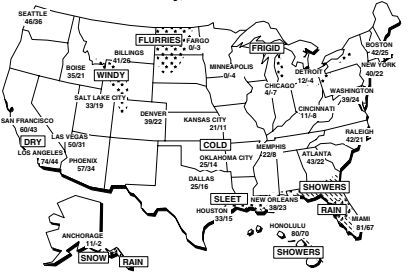
## HAGATNA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 76.  
 Monday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 74.

## Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	36/10	Los Angeles	68/46
Amarillo	23/10	Little Rock	40/16
Anchorage	38/30	Louisville	34/24
Birmingham	55/44	Miami	79/71
Bismarck	59/43	Milwaukee	14/8
Boise	58/36	Nashville	49/27
Boston	41/12	New York	51/46
Brownsville	38/16	Omaha	16/-5
Buffalo	48/42	Orlando	79/62
Burlington	38/32	Philadelphia	55/41
Charleston, SC	38/32	Phoenix	63/38
Charlotte	38/32	Pittsburgh	46/38
Cleveland	70/57	Portland, OR	48/32
Columbus, OH	63/48	Portland, ME	41/31
Dallas	32/28	Salt Lake City	30/14
Duluth	1/16	San Antonio	56/25
El Paso	50/29	San Diego	69/46
Hartford	42/30	San Juan	85/72
Helena	22/-6	Tampa	77/65
Indianapolis	24/16	Tulsa	29/9
Jacksonville	74/59	Washington	59/45
Kansas City	15/0	Wichita	22/2

## Friday, December 24



## U.S. Extended Forecast

The Christmas holiday weekend will be dry but quite cold for much of the eastern half of the nation. Friday, bitterly cold air will persist across the northern Plains as the cold air seeps into the East. A bit of rain and snow will taper off across Maine during the morning as a storm system pushes away from the region. The tail of the associated cold front will trigger a few showers and thunderstorms across Florida. Lake-effect snow bands will fall downwind of the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, rain and snow will dampen the western Gulf Coast states as a few flurries occur across southern New Mexico. Gusty winds will howl across the extreme Southwest.

## Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/71	Kaduna AB	67/57
Beijing	32/18	Kunshan AB	38/26
Camp Casey	35/17	Kuala Lumpur	88/80
Christchurch	56/36	Manila	85/73
Diego Garcia	86/74	Masawa AB	36/24
Hagatna	86/74	Osaka	36/20
Hanoi	75/61	Perth	51/67
Hong Kong	69/59	Taipei	69/55
Honolulu	80/70	Pusan	45/31

## Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/73	Budapest	46/36	Kabul	39/15	Nairobi	81/54
Athens	50/41	Buenos Aires	82/59	Kiev	25/25	New Delhi	73/43
Auckland	61/47	Cairo	61/38	Kuwait	66/44	Oslo	27/19
Baghdad	61/34	Cancun	82/69	London	46/34	Paris	45/36
Barbados	84/68	Cape Town	88/68	Madrid	55/42	Rio de Janeiro	80/56
Barcelona	56/46	Geneva	42/39	Mexico City	72/45	Rome	57/45
Berlin	42/32	Istanbul	43/35	Montreal	25/3	St. Petersburg	30/20
Bermuda	72/64	Jerusalem	54/51	Mogadishu	92/76	Stockholm	32/21
Brussels	45/32	Johnsburg	79/57	Moscow	23/16	Tokyo	39/29



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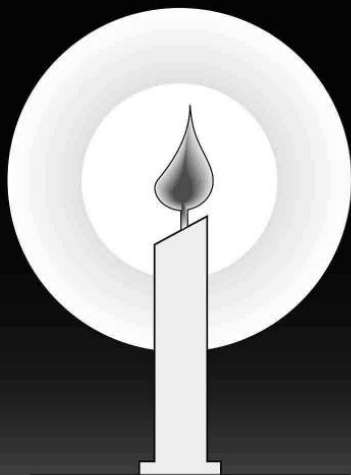
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*First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others. — Thomas a Kempis*

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# Dodgers back out of deal, angering Yanks

## New York thought Johnson trade was final, pursued CF Beltran

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK**—By the time top Yankees officials were done meeting with Carlos Beltran, they knew their trade to acquire Randy Johnson had fallen through.

The Los Angeles Dodgers reviewed course Tuesday and withdrew from the proposed three-team, 10-player deal that would have sent Johnson from the Arizona Diamondbacks to the Yankees.

"As we sit here right now, the deal is no more," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said during a conference call.

"I've been saying all along that we weren't going to do the deal unless it made sense for this club in 2005, and that was not the case."

Los Angeles would have re-

ceived right-hander Javier Vazquez from the Yankees along with two top prospects, catcher Dliener Navarro and third baseman Eric Duncan. The Dodgers also would have gotten pitcher Mike Koplove from Arizona.

Arizona would have obtained outfielder Shawn Green and pitchers Brad Penny, Yency Brazoban and Brandon Weeden from the Dodgers.

Along with Johnson, the Yankees would have gotten pitcher Kaz Ishii from Los Angeles.

"The Dodgers reneged on the deal that was agreed to last Friday, unequivocally and with no contingencies except for a window for contract extensions and physicals," Yankees President Randy Levine said. "For some reason, the Dodgers over the weekend started to backpedal.

Why they would break their word is only something they can answer. It's sure is disappointing, and we'll have to think long and hard before ever doing business with the Dodgers again."

Diamondbacks managing general partner Ken Kendrick wouldn't comment on the Dodgers' decision. Johnson has asked for a trade, and Kendrick intends to resolve the Big Unit situation by the end of the month.

"We don't think it's a healthy thing for us or him for the uncertainty of this situation to continue into next year," Kendrick said.

Levine and general manager Brian Cashman went to Florida to join owner George Steinbrenner in the meeting with Beltran, likely to get the largest contract among this offseason's free agents. The session at Legends Field in Tampa, which also includ-

ed agent Scott Boras, lasted about one hour and no offers were made.

Beltran and Boras on Wednesday spoke with Houston Astros officials at the team's spring training facility in Kissimmee, Fla.

We feel we had a positive discussion today," Astros owner Drayton McLane said in a statement. "We'll continue to have dialogue in the hopes of having Carlos in an Astros uniform for many years to come."

Beltran batted .417 for the Astros in the NL championship series, with four home runs, five RBIs and four steals after hitting .455 with four homers and nine RBIs in the division series.

In free agent news, third baseman Joe Randa agreed Tuesday to a \$2.15 million, one-year contract with Cincinnati, and Colorado agreed to one-year contracts

that kept catcher Todd Greene (\$750,000) and right-hander Jamey Wright (\$550,000) with the Rockies.

In addition, the Yankees finalized their \$4 million, two-year contract with second baseman Tony Womack, a deal agreed to Dec. 7.

New York also reached a preliminary agreement with right-hander Tanyon Sturtz on a one-year deal worth about \$850,000 and on Wednesday finalized its \$39.95 million, four-year contract with right-hander Carl Pavano.

Several of the 41 players cut loose by their teams a day earlier agreed Tuesday to re-sign, moves that got around baseball's maximum-cut rule. The group included Colorado White Sox catcher Ben Davis (\$1 million) and Philadelphia reliever Amalea Telemaco (\$600,000).

# Stoudamire has impressive return for No. 14 Arizona

The Associated Press

Salim Stoudamire was suspended for Arizona's last game and the Wildcats had their lowest point total in 19 years.

The senior guard was back Tuesday night and No. 14 Arizona responded with its highest-scoring game of the season, a 105-75 rout of Manhattan.

Stoudamire played 20 minutes and had 23 points on 7-of-8 shooting from three-point range. He made his first seven three-point shots, then threw up an air ball in an attempt to tie Jason Gardner's school record.

"He got hit on the elbow or at what might have gone in, too," said Arizona coach Lute Olson, who suspended Stoudamire for last

## College basketball roundup

weekend's 48-43 victory at Marquette because the guard pouted in the previous game.

Olson told Stoudamire to be himself and quit worrying so much.

"I wanted to have fun regardless of if I played good or not," said Stoudamire, who had seven threes for the fourth time in his career. "I wanted to go out and smile and have fun."

Channing Frye added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats (8-2), who won their fifth straight.

Freshman C.J. Anderson scored 22 points on 7-for-9 shooting for Manhattan (4-3), which

committed 24 turnovers.

## Men's Top 25

**No. 3 Oklahoma St. 52, NW Oklahoma 35:** At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas and Joey Graham each scored 21 points and the Cowboys (9-0) set a school record with 15 three-pointers. JamesOn Curry had eight straight points in a 12-0 run that put Oklahoma State ahead 87-27.

**No. 4 North Carolina 93, Vermont 65:** At Chapel Hill, N.C., Rashad McCants was held out of the starting lineup because he was late after getting stuck in traffic, but he bounced back from the brief benching to score 19 points for the Tar Heels (9-1).

**No. 13 Gonzaga 83, E. Wash-**

**ington 70:** At Spokane, Wash., Adam Morrison scored 25 points for the Bulldogs (9-1), who won their sixth straight overall and 19th in a row over their in-state rival.

**No. 16 North Carolina St. 72, BYU 61:** At Provo, Utah, Julius Hodge scored 22 points, including four free throws over the final two minutes, and the Wolfpack (9-1) bounced back from Sunday's 64-66 loss at No. 12 Washington.

**No. 17 Iowa 83, Texas Tech 53:** At Chicago, Adam Haluska matched his career-high with 21 points and the Hawkeyes (10-1) had 10 blocked shots as Steve Alford beat Bob Knight, his college coach, for the first time in four

meetings.

**No. 19 Louisville 80, IU/UPUI 60:** At Louisville, Ky., freshman Juan Palacios had 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cardinals (7-1), who won in the first round of the Billy Minardi Classic despite not having Ellis Myles and Otis George, their two leading rebounders, because of injuries.

**No. 23 Michigan St. 76, UCLA 64:** At East Lansing, Mich., Paul Davis scored 18 points and the Spartans (7-2) won their fourth straight game.

## Service academies

**Navy 90, Mount St. Mary's 81:** At Emmitsburg, Md., Matt Fannin scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Navy (4-6).

# 'Determination, hard work' paid off for Yongsan's Bartley

BY DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

**OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea**—All-Armed Forces point guard Ronald Bartley says his successful 2004 didn't come without a lot of resolve and without having to prove himself on each step to the pinnacle of U.S. military basketball.

"To go from here to make All-Army and then All-Armed

Forces, it was all determination and hard work," said Bartley, 28, of Norfolk, Va., an Army specialist and a military policeman at South Korea's Yongsan Garrison.

That determination and hard work led Bartley to a fulfilling year.

■ The 37-5 record Bartley and the Yongsan Runnin' Rebels compiled in the 2003-04 Korea Traveling League season and the three all-tournament and two MVP selections Bartley picked up along the way.

■ Making the All-Army team the first time he tried. Army won the All-Armed Forces gold medal in June at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

■ Selection to the All-Armed Forces team. With Bartley running the point, Armed Forces earned a bronze medal in the International Military Sports Council Games in July at Zagreb, Croatia, then a gold medal in the

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe tournament earlier this month.

"It was one of the greatest experiences of my entire life," he said.

"You travel with guys who you've never played with before and you form a team, you become a family," he said. "And you play against teams from all around the world, especially that game we had with Lithuania"—a 94-87 victory in the SHAPE tournament.

"It's the nothing like it. It certainly was nothing like his life just two years ago. He was one semester away from getting his degree; son Nehemiah had just been born; Bartley needed money. So the career Navy sailor's son joined the Army."

And basketball became just a part-time gig; his main job is wearing an Army uniform. "Work always comes first," he said.

But because of that invitation to the All-Army camp, he's also got-

ten to spend a lot of time wearing an Army basketball uniform.

"As many as 200 guys apply and they only invite 60, then you have to make the camp," Bartley said. "You have to play the best of the best. You have to prove yourself all over again."

His 8th Military Police Brigade supported him strongly, he said.

"There was never a time when they said no, even when I was new. All they asked in return was for me to work hard and be a good soldier."

Yongsan had a rough time during this week's Osan Pacificwide Open Holiday Basketball Tournament, eliminated in two playoff games.

It just shows, he contends, that he's reached the top; he knows he's a marked man and the Runnin' Rebels are a marked team.

"It gets harder now," he said. "People point to me and say, 'Oh, that's the All-Armed Forces guy.' Somebody is always going to be



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

**Ronald Bartley, right, of Korea's Yongsan Runnin' Rebels was chosen for the All-Army basketball team this year.**

watching me, thinking they can do better and try to knock me off. You have to maintain your game and stature. Every time, it's a new steppingstone."

Bartley said he plans to return to All-Army camp to "prove myself all over again."

"I'll keep going until my legs fall off," he said.

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# Bowl a ball for Georgia Tech, QB

BY MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Reggie Ball walked off the field after the Champs Sports Bowl with the most valuable player trophy under his left arm.

He might want to bring it with him to spring practice.

Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey, who has been critical of his sophomore quarterback all season, reiterated this week that Ball will have to win back the starting job next year.

Ball certainly stated his case Tuesday night. He threw two touchdown passes, ran for a score and led the Yellow Jackets to a 51-14 victory over Syracuse.

"I just let loose," Ball said. "I wasn't worried about proving anything. I know what I can do. I know what kind of leader I am."

Ball finished 12-of-19 for 207 yards with an interception, had 35 yards rushing and was named the game's MVP.

"He went out and performed extremely well, especially early in the game," Gailey said. "He's had a lot of criticism this year and suffered through a lot of adversity. I'm happy for him."

Much of the criticism came from Gailey, who expected more from Ball.

Ball opened the season with two strong games, then threw twice as many interceptions (16) as touchdowns in the final nine games.

Gailey even said Ball would have to earn back the starting job during spring practice. But Ball may have done that against the Orange.

He got plenty of help, though.

P.J. Daniels ran 17 times for 119 yards and two scores, Calvin Johnson set a school record for touchdowns by a freshman with his seventh, and the defense set the tone by returning an interception for a touchdown on the second play of the game. The unit added a safety with 1:42 to play.

Even special teams played a role, blocking a punt in the first quarter that the Yellow Jackets (7-5) converted into a touchdown.

The loss was the worst in a bowl game for Syracuse (6-6) since the 1953 Orange Bowl, a 61-6 drubbing by Alabama. It also means more questions about the future of embattled coach Paul Pasquonali.

Syracuse chancellor Nancy Cantor gave Pasquonali a vote of confidence earlier this season, saying he would be retained for a 15th season. But the school also named longtime Southern California administrator Daryl Gross the new athletic director last week.

Gross replaces Jake Crouthamel, one of Pasquonali's biggest supporters.

Gross dispelled rumors that he was already thinking about a replacement. However, he also said he would evaluate the athletic department after he completes his move in late January.

Georgia Tech's dominance Tuesday certainly won't help Pasquonali.

Cris Reis intercepted Perry Patterson's first pass and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown.



Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson makes a diving catch for a touchdown in front of Syracuse's O'Neil Scott (21) and Dan Weiss (22) in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla.



Georgia Tech quarterback Reggie Ball celebrates with the MVP trophy after Georgia Tech defeated Syracuse in the Champs Sports Bowl on Tuesday, 51-14. Ball threw two TDs.

"From the first pass of the game, things seemed to go against us," Pasquonali said. "It was just one of those days where nothing we did went well."

After Syracuse made 7-6, Georgia Tech scored touchdowns on three consecutive possessions to pretty much put the game away before halftime.

"We punched them in the mouth, but they punched right back," Syracuse safety Diamond Ferri said. "They deserved to win."

Ball found Johnson for a 10-yard score to make it 14-6. After getting the ball back, Ball rolled right and found Nate Curry down the

sideline for an 80-yard touchdown — the longest play of the season for the Yellow Jackets and the longest pass of Ball's career.

Syracuse went three-and-out on the ensuing possession, and Xavier McGuire blocked the punt to give his team the ball at the 14. Ball completed a third-down pass to the 2, and Daniels took it in from there.

Tech made it 35-6 just before halftime thanks mostly to Johnson.

He burned cornerback Tanard Jackson and made a spectacular 51-yard catch over Ferri. He scored six plays later on an end around from the 5-yard line.

## Georgia Tech 51, Syracuse 14

Syracuse Georgia Tech

6 0 0 0 6 0 0 1-14

1st Quarter

GT — Ball 20 interception (Ball kick), 14:13.

Syr — Patterson 20 run (kick failed), 6:24.

GT — Johnson 25 run from Ball (kick), 2:36.

GT — Curry 80 pass from Ball (kick), 1:11.

2nd Quarter

GT — Daniels 2 run (kick), 12:27.

GT — Johnson 5 run (Ball kick), 1:22.

3rd Quarter

GT — Ball 11 run (Ball kick), 1:48.

GT — Daniels 1 run (kick), 4:0.

4th Quarter

Syr — Gregory 25 pass from Patterson (Barrington pass from Patterson), 11:27.

GT — Safety. Fields tackled in end zone, 1:42.

5th Quarter

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## SPORTS



Arbitrator rules J. O'Neal's suspension should be reduced by 10 games, Page 31

# AP wants poll out of BCS

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It looks as if the Bowl Championship Series is headed for another major overhaul.

The Associated Press has told the BCS to stop using its college football poll to determine which teams play for the national title and in the most prestigious bowl games.

Since the BCS was implemented in 1998 by officials from the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference, Pac-10, Southeastern Conference and Notre Dame, the formula it uses to rank teams has been tweaked almost every year. But the AP poll and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll have always been an integral part.

The AP said such use was never sanctioned and had reached the point where it threatened to undermine the independence and integrity of the poll.

The AP sent BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg a cease-and-desist letter, dated Dec. 21, stating that use of the poll is unlawful and harms the AP's reputation.

"We respect the decision of the Associated Press to no longer have its poll included in the BCS standings," Weiberg said in a statement Tuesday. "Since the inception of the BCS, the AP poll has been part of our standings. We appreciate the cooperation we have received from the organization in providing rankings on a weekly basis. We will discuss alternatives to the

Associated Press poll at the upcoming BCS meetings and plan to conclude our evaluation of the BCS standings formula, including any other possible changes, by our April meeting."

Where the BCS goes from here won't be determined for a while, but even before the AP made its poll off limits Weiberg had said that the BCS planned to look into the possibility of using a selection committee to create the bowl matchups, much like the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.

This season, the AP and coaches poll were given more weight than ever in the BCS standings. Each poll accounted for one-third of a team's BCS grade and total points were factored in, not just ranking,

which was the case before.

A compilation of six computer rankings made up the final third of teams' BCS grade.

The new system put heighten scrutiny on the two polls.

In its letter, the AP said some of its poll voters had indicated they might no longer participate because of concerns over having their reporters be so closely involved in the process of determining which teams play where.

"By stating that the AP poll is one of the three components used by BCS to establish its rankings, BCS conveys the impression that AP condones or otherwise participates in the BCS system," the letter said.

SEE BCS ON PAGE 30



## Jackets jump on Orange



Georgia Tech's Chris Reis, second from left, celebrates with teammates Kenny Scott (2), Nathan Burton (15) and Dawan Landry (20) after intercepting a Syracuse pass and running it in for a TD in the first quarter of the Champs Sports Bowl. See story on Page 30.



James lifts game, team against T-wolves, reigning MVP Garnett

Page 31



Arizona rebounds from dismal game to rout Manhattan

Page 29

L.A. pulls out of deal sending Johnson to N.Y. Page 29

